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The Signal



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News UPDATE

Parking regulation

Fort Gordon law enforcement personnel will be enforcing the new Fort Gordon Regulation 210-3, Installation Motor Vehicle Traffic Code.

The regulation prohibits parking recreational vehicles and boats in unit parking lots or in overcrowded housing areas.

The Directorate of Morale, Welfare, and Recreation recreational parking lot is the only authorized storage facility for recreational vehicles and boats. Owners should make arrangements to relocate their recreational vehicles/boats to the lot.

After a grace period, the vehicles will be impounded and towed by an off-post contractor and stored at the owners' expense.

Abandoned vehicles will continue to be impounded, towed and stored; after 120 days, unclaimed vehicles become property of the towing contractor.

For information, call the MP desk at 791-4380.

MLK program

The Fort Gordon Martin Luther King Command Program is 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. **Thursday** at the Gordon Club.

The theme is "Achievement Through Courage, Sacrifice and Moral Power," and the guest speaker is the Rev. Willie M. Bolden from Atlanta.

Cost for the luncheon is \$11. For information, call Sgt. 1st Class Cisco Johnson at 791-6442.

Community information

The monthly community information briefing is 11:30 a.m. **Jan. 18** at the Gordon Club.

The meeting provides information on community events and projects. It will be open to questions and comments. The next meeting is Feb. 15 at the same time and place. For information, call 791-3639.

Gospel concert

The Directorate of Morale, Welfare, and Recreation presents Yolanda Adams Today, a Gospel concert, at 7:30 p.m. **Jan. 18** in Alexander Hall. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; the show also features J.Moss with Nuttin' but Strings.

Tickets cost \$30 for the first 12 rows, \$25 for all others. For information, call Steve Walpert at 791-4389.

Change of command

The 297th Military Intelligence Battalion is having a change of command ceremony at 10 a.m. **today** at Barton Parade Field. For information call 1st Lt. Christine Moore at 791-8181.

Soldiers receive chemical training

Bonnie Heater

Signal staff

The 93rd Signal Brigade trained 21 permanent party Soldiers in the Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear course here from Dec. 5 to 16.

The 80-hour course includes classroom lessons and one full day of CS gas, commonly referred to as tear gas, chamber training. The classroom instruction was held at Building 38710 and the CS training was conducted in the newly built CS Chamber at Training Area 24.



Sgt. 1st Class Michael Gilmer, the instructor, prepares the CS canister in the gas chamber.

"Once a student completes this course he or she can run a CBRN (formerly known as Nuclear, Biological and Chemical) chamber and advise their commander on NBC training," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Gilmer, NBC NCO assigned to the 93rd Signal Brigade. He has been a 74D, (formerly 54B), for 19 years.

"Students are issued a training manual which they can use throughout their career," explained Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Frauli, the assistant instructor assigned to the 67th Signal Battalion.

The training manual covers

such topics as CBRN threat, chemical agent alarms and detectors, maintaining protective masks in the CBRN room, the CBRN readiness program, and map reading.

Other topics covered in the student training manual are: effects of environmental conditions on decontamination procedures and equipment, CBRN room accountability, managing and maintaining the CBRN room, hazardous materials, and CBRN Intelligence.

In addition, there is current information on improved chemical agent monitoring and operational radiation exposure. Students will also learn about the physical, chemical, and radioactive properties of depleted uranium as well as its primary toxicological hazards. Finally, radiation detection equipment is covered.

"There are three tests given in the course," Gilmer explained. "The first (test) covers individual protective equipment; the second (test), which is the toughest, covers CBRN reports; and the final covers (decontamination) and the CBRN room. It is given on the last day of class.

Currently, the CBRN course is a one-time requirement for both CBRN Defense Officers and NCOs, according to Gilmer. "We held one class in September 2005 and we plan to conduct another class in February," he said.

Prior to going to the gas chamber the instructors explain what is needed to run the training as well as how to clear the CS gas out of the chamber af-



Photos by Bonnie Heater

Spc. Jesus Quintana, assigned to Task Force Lightning, leaves the chambers with an unidentified student, showing definite signs of the effects of the CS gas.

ter the training is completed. "You will need CS capsules, which you can order from the post ammo supply point, water (to flush out CS which may get in the eyes), and a combat lifesaver," said Gilmer. He further advises students to always bring extra protective masks in all sizes. Another bit of advice he gives them, "take shallow breaths while you are in the chamber."

"Before you enter the gas chamber check to make sure all disks are in the mask, otherwise, you won't get a good seal," explained Gilmer.

Masks are checked for a proper seal before the students enter the chamber.

Most of the students enter the gas chamber initially unmasked. A few prefer to wear their protective mask. Gilmer explains how to set up the chamber while he sets it up. Holes are carefully punched in

the can, the lit candle is placed under it, and the CS capsule(s) are placed on top of the inverted can. In minutes the CS capsules break down. A small amount of white smoke can be seen. Finally you start to feel the effects of the pungent gas. Initially, your throat becomes irritated, and then the eyes and nose start to water and burn.

Any student can freely exit the chamber if it becomes too uncomfortable to stay as the chamber fills with more concentrated CS gas.

MANY RUSH OUT

Minutes later, the students re-enter the gas-filled chamber with their protective masks securely in place. Gilmer works with five students at a time; running them through a series of exercises which include side straddle hop, push-ups, and neck rotations.

See CBRN, page 6

101st fields new JNN communication system

Airborne division using system division-wide during Iraqi deployment

1st Lt. Jacqui Prusczinski

Special to the Signal

As the Global War on Terrorism continues to change, so too, have the methods of battlefield communication in Iraq.

Currently the 101st Airborne Division and Signal units around the Army are employing new equipment, developed by General Dynamics, to communicate in Iraq. The newly-integrated system, known as Joint Network Node, was first used by the 3rd Infantry Division during their deployment in Iraq. The 101st is now using it Division-wide throughout Iraq. The new system is Internet-inspired, and uses commercial satellites to allow units to communicate well beyond the line of sight capabilities.

JNN allows for an increase in bandwidth which in turn increases the reliability of communications. JNN also supports the use of Voice-over Internet Protocol or VOIP, an IP based phone. This again is believed to be a more efficient use of bandwidth. Video conferencing is also supported by the JNN and has become a popular means of communicating between leaders when at different camps.

The JNN system is replacing the long-standing Multiple Subscriber Equipment, which used line of sight capabilities along with government owned satellites. It was a self-contained military network using strictly military assets. The use of commercial satellites comes with the benefit of using outside resources for greater

communication advantages and also further improvement in the system.

Sgt. Layton Flynn, Company C, 96th Aviation Support Battalion, is one of the Soldiers who works with the new system on a daily basis in Iraq. He pointed out some of JNN's benefits.

"The (communications) are better, steadier and more reliable than the comms we offered in my last deploy-

ment working with MSE in the Node Center," Flynn said. "JNN as a whole seems to have a much stronger backbone."

The JNN works using a KU Band trailer to communicate to the satellite to pass data and voice. The transmission from the satellite then goes into the main shelter of the JNN and through the stacks, which are the main brains of the JNN system. Cur-



Photo by Sgt. Ryan Matson

Sgt. Layton Flynn, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, connects a fiber cable to the brigade junction box on the Joint Network Node shelter on Forward Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, Dec. 26.

rently Co. C, 96th Aviation Support Battalion, 101st Aviation Combat Brigade, is using their High Capability Line Of Sight as a backup connection to the satellite to ensure there is always a link to communicate.

"We have had no outages since we have incorporated the HCLoS as a redundant line," Spc. Joseph Chellin, Co. C, 96th Aviation Support Battalion, said.

Spc. David Carpenter, a KU Band operator also in Co. C, commented on the shortcomings of the JNN system.

"JNN is commercial equipment not designed for the tactical environment," he said after replacing the High Power Amplifier, a key component of the KU Band trailer during its first week of operation while in Kuwait. The KU band is the dish that is used to track the commercial satellite that allows the JNN to pass information.

"The KU band opens up a lot of possibilities and serves as a great proof of concept, just hopefully not the final answer," Carpenter added.

JNN is in its first phase. The operators have had limited classtime with it and are learning many of the capabilities and limitations first hand as they go along this deployment. The 101st will be the first division to use the JNN system for the entire duration of its deployment. Like all new equipment it has its benefits and its shortcomings that will hopefully be worked out in the phase II equipment. The phase II equipment should be fielded by the 82nd Airborne Division.

(Prusczinski is deployed with the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade in Iraq.)

Former Airman enters hall of honor

Bonnie Heater

Signal staff

Danny Prichard, an emergency management assistant with the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security was inducted into the Freedom Through Vigilance Association's Hall of Honor Oct. 22.

The ceremony was held at Headquarters, Air Intelligence Agency at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

"This award means a lot to me," said Prichard. "My former commanders and people I worked with and respect wrote me up for this award unbeknownst to me."

Prichard retired after 30 years of service in the intelligence career field with the Air Force on March 1, 2004. His last active duty assignment was here at the Gordon Regional Security Operations Center where he was the superintendent.

"I moved 14 times in my career," said Prichard. "I deployed a lot." When he was assigned to the 692nd Intelligence Group at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, he was

gone an average of 220 days a year.

"If it wasn't for my wife, Teresa, being the most understanding person in the world I might not be married today. My two sons, Paul (now 18) and Raymond (now 16), never had a chance to settle in anywhere while growing up."

Throughout his career he

not only concentrated on getting the mission accomplished well, but looked after the welfare and morale of the men and women that served with him.

In 1991, (then a senior master sergeant) Prichard was serving another assignment at Clark AFB when Mount Pinatubo erupted. He was part of the unit leadership that de-

veloped a deployment plan to Subic Bay in Cuba. Prichard was a team leader responsible for the safety and security of a team of 35 Airmen. During the volcanic eruption, he was a part of a crew of people who worked around-the-clock to shovel volcanic ash off the top of the hotel he and his family were staying at.

"I was scared my family might die," Prichard said.

He and another senior non-commissioned officer rounded up all the military members and whatever civilians they could convince to leave their rooms after the hotel started to show signs of collapse. After the hotel collapsed, he led a team of military members who worked to free people trapped in the rubble.

Due to his efforts, Prichard received a Meritorious Service Medal upon which the citation read in part, "Sergeant Prichard took decisive, life-saving actions. His bravery in the face of extreme physical danger saved lives and kept both military and civilian members as safe as possible."

See Hall of honor, page 4



Photo by Bonnie Heater

Emergency management assistants O.J. Plair (*standing*) and Danny Prichard discuss data appearing on one of many monitors in the Installation Operations Center.

Long serving employee retires

Larry Edmond

Signal staff

By the time this is printed, a remarkable worker will have quietly ended his long federal career.

There will be no fanfare from the Fort Gordon Army Community Service staff where he served as Exceptional Family Member Program manager because that is the way he wanted it.

So when Amos Demps locked the door and turned in his key Tuesday, he concluded a career that spanned many years.

History buffs get ready. When Demps began his service to America, it was a very different world. Franklin D. Roosevelt was in the middle of his third term as President. The movie Casablanca swept the Academy Awards. The Pentagon was just completed across

the Potomac River from Washington, D.C.

It was 1943 when 19 year old Demps headed off to war. He completed 30 years of military service and retired. But he says he enjoyed his work so he went right back into government service. He continued working another 24 years for the Department of the Army. The last eight years he has worked as a civilian contractor at Fort Gordon.

All together that makes 62 years of government service.

Demps joined the Army on June 5, 1943. He completed basic training and medical tech school. One of his early assignments took him to Fort Clark, Texas, where he served with the 2nd Calvary which still used horses when he was there.

Like most Soldiers of the era, in 1944 he found himself in the middle of World

War II. He fought his way across North Africa, Italy, Germany, Belgium and France.

Over the course of his career he used his medical specialist skills in Army hospitals as he rose through the ranks. He cross-trained in medical supply, operating room and personnel administration.

Today Demps and his wife of 45 years make their home in Hephzibah. They have two children – a son, a recently retired warrant officer in Virginia, and a daughter working on a doctorate degree in Texas.

Retirement will give Demps time to spend with his two grandchildren.

At age 81, he says, "This time I am really retiring." But it will not be the last time he is seen around Fort Gordon. Demps said he is making plans to do volunteer work in the area.

Prevent identity theft

Kristy Davies
Signal staff

The phone call begins with a voice on the other end stating they are an employee of the court and that you, or your Soldier, have failed to report for jury duty.

They inform you that a bench warrant has been issued and an arrest will be made. To make sure it was just a “misunderstanding” or “clerical error,” they ask you to “verify” information such as social security numbers, dates of birth and they will solicit credit card or bank account numbers to verify your identity through a credit bureau.

This scam, which was prominent at Fort Campbell, Ky., is just one example of a scam that could cause a person’s identity to be stolen.

“Unfortunately, we don’t find out about all the different (scams) that are happening because people don’t tend to report it,” explained Lanny Valentine, consumer advocate at Fort Gordon Army Community Service. “A great amount of the fraud that happens is never reported either because the victim is ashamed and doesn’t want everybody to know or, in many cases, they never find out that they’ve been taken (advantage of).”

Identity theft is a serious problem for consumers. Military personnel and the elderly are often targets for identity theft.

“Military people are, unfortunately, very good targets for any kind of fraud because they are easy to identify and advertise to,” said Valentine. “A lot of our (Soldiers) are at the lower end of the pay scale and that tends to open them up for fraudulent activity as well, such as payday lending, title pawns and other things that are illegal or just a bad idea.”

More than 50 percent of identity theft victims are between the ages of 18 and 39 according to a 2004 report by the Federal Trade Commission, which is the average age range of active duty Soldiers. Georgia is ranked number 11 out of 50 states for numbers of ID theft victims.

Phone scams, mail theft, computer hacking, losing your wallet and throwing away documents with your information on them are just some of the ways your identity can be stolen.

Phishing is a popular way of obtaining information through the Internet.

“A phishing scam is most often carried out through an e-mail that is sent to personal e-mail addresses and appears to come from legitimate businesses, such as reputable banks and credit card companies,” explained Special Agent Katisha Freeman, Fort Gordon Criminal Investigation Division. “The e-mail message may have pop-up windows or links to other web sites that appear to be official. Most often the message will contain some reason for a person to verify their personal information, which is used (by the thief) to apply for credit cards.”

To tell if an e-mail or website is a phishing scam, they will request you to verify account information such as login, password and social security number.

“(Another sign is) a message

that portrays a sense of urgency and threatens to close your account if you do not respond within the allotted time,” added Freeman.

Examples of some phishing scams are spoof e-mails from eBay, PayPal, US Bank or Bank of America. Currently there are also phishing websites such as a spoof Army Knowledge Online and MyPay.

Having your MyPay personal identification number stolen could have detrimental results.

“Using your PIN, (the perpetrator) will set up an allotment that goes directly to a financial institution,” explained Investigator Maurice Ransom, 35th Military Police Detachment. “Once that allotment kicks in, the money goes to that bank and then it’s in their account where they have access to it.”

“Some (identity theft) is low tech,” explained Valentine. “We tend to worry about high tech ways people can get our information, but a great deal of ID theft happens in low tech ways. Dumpster diving is still probably the most common form of getting information. People just going through the trash and

pulling out bank account statements, credit card bills or receipts.”

According to the FTC, only about 12 percent of ID theft cases involve the Internet, but 68 percent of them are obtained offline like the theft of a wallet or checkbook.

Identity theft continues to increase. In 2002, there were 2,592 victims in Georgia and in 2004, there were 7,440 cases of ID theft reported.

Recognizing what are scams can be difficult, but there are ways to protect yourself.

“Have your checks delivered to your bank and pick them up at the bank,” said Valentine. “When you have a check or bill to mail, put it in an actual mail drop and if you’re going to be gone, have the post office hold your mail. Shred documents to keep them from being taken out of the trash and be careful with any kind of Internet transactions.”

Financial institutions will never e-mail or call you to verify information they already have on record.

“If I call my bank and I inquire about my account, I know that I’m calling my bank and am a little more free to give information,” said Ransom. “But if my bank is calling me, then I try to turn the tables to find out if it is a legitimate source. To me, that sends a red flag if they’re asking for that much information about me.”

Prevention of ID theft could save you heartache. Becoming a victim of ID theft has lasting effects.

“First of all, your credit history suffers tremendously,” explained Valentine. “It’s a thing that can consume months and years of your life just trying to get your credit history straightened back out and get your good name restored. Everybody should get a copy of their credit history at least once a year.”

“Federal law now says you can get one (credit report) every year for free from each of the reporting agencies,” added Valentine. “Just go to **AnnualCreditReport.com**, get a copy and review it carefully to make sure there are no accounts on there that (you) are unfamiliar with. Also look at who has been inquiring about your credit history.”

If a person becomes a victim of identity theft, there are important steps you must take.

“The first thing to do is to notify at least one of the credit reporting agencies and they will put a fraud alert on your accounts,” Valentine said. “Then you’ll probably have to file a police report.”

For military, an additional step would be to notify the chain of command.

“The chain of command is keeping the Soldiers aware that there are people out there to take advantage of them,” said Ransom. “The chain of command tries to tell Soldiers on a constant basis that there are other avenues if they are experiencing financial difficulties.”

“Be on guard that people are out there to scam you,” added Ransom. “You’re a Soldier and they are going to look at you as a target. They want what you’ve got.”

Tips on how to prevent identity theft or what to do if you become a victim are available at the FTC’s website, www.consumer.gov/idtheft.



Photo by Charmain Brackett

Petty Officer 2nd Class Karen Hunter hands a bicycle to Petty Officer 1st Class Sarena Harris Dec. 22 outside the Augusta Task Force for the Homeless office on East Boundary. Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and civilians from Fort Gordon donated more than 450 Christmas presents for homeless and abused children.

Servicemembers play Santa

Charmain Z. Brackett
Contributing writer

Three-year-old Cierra Harmon’s Christmas excitement came a few days early as she received a bicycle from Santa Claus and some of his helpers at Fort Gordon.

“She wanted one too,” said her mother, Rachel Harmon.

Children in about 60 families received gifts through the Sailor Santa program at the Augusta Task Force for the Homeless office on Dec. 22.

“We take applications from homeless and at-risk who are not being assisted by any other agency,” said Gail Darby, lead in-take and referral specialist with the task force.

Those deemed “at-risk” for becoming homeless include those people whose utilities have been disconnected.

The Sailor Santa program is somewhat of a misnomer, according to Petty Officer 1st Class Miguel “Mike” Farina, who started it at Fort Gordon four years ago.

“Despite the name, it is not just a Sailor program. Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, Sailors and civilians at Fort Gordon” donated more than 450 presents this year, he said.

Farina started the program because he’d seen it at other Naval bases and as a way to give back to others who were generous to his fam-

ily his first Christmas in the United States.

A Nicaraguan immigrant at the age of 7, Farina spent his first Christmas in the United States with only part of his family. His father had not yet arrived and money was tight at the holidays.

“My first Christmas was very scarce,” he said.

About a dozen Sailors and an Airman participated in the Dec. 22 toy distribution.

“I was looking for a way to help others celebrate the holidays,” said Senior Airman Irma-Laura Green, who brought several baskets of fruit for families.

Not only did Petty Officer 1st Class Christi Hopkins-Miner help unload the toys on the chilly Thursday morning, she brought an extra special guest along.

“My father-in-law brings his (Santa suit) every year at Christmas. He fits the part,” she said.

Last year, when the command’s Santa suit was unable to be found, Hopkins-Miner asked her father-in-law Bill Miner, if he’d help out, and he did. He did a repeat performance this year.

Four-year-old Eddasia Hart was pleased to see Miner as Santa Claus, giving him a big hug as he presented her with a brightly wrapped package.

“It means a lot,” said her mother, Leslie Hart, who added she just didn’t have the money this Christmas to buy presents for her daughter.



Photo by Janet A. McElmurray

A FEW good women

Returning for the fourth time as auctioneer for the Federally Employed Women’s annual Christmas auction, retired Maj. Gen. Janet Hicks set the tone for a festive competition among bidders. Hicks assigned each bidder a moniker including her own, “high school principal,” as she retired her “lady in the BDUs” used at prior auctions. Funds raised totaled \$856 from the auction of donated items and two donations received totaling \$200. The FEW auction funds provide assistance to Christmas House of Fort Gordon, Safe Home of Augusta and Fisher House.

Filler please

W-2 schedule released

Electronic copies available on myPay web site sooner than hard copies arrive in mail

ARLINGTON, Va. – Military service members, military retirees and annuitants, and federal civilian employees paid by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) can expect to receive their 2005 tax statements beginning this month.

DFAS customers with myPay access will be able to retrieve their tax statements electronically up to three weeks sooner than those relying on regular mail delivery. myPay is DFAS’ secure Web-based pay information system.

One of the many benefits of myPay is the ability to receive

tax statements electronically, saving time and avoiding risks associated with identity theft. myPay has a series of security measures with layers of defense against identity theft.

The secure technology provided to myPay customers meets or exceeds security requirements in private industry worldwide.

Tax statements for active duty Air Force, Army and Navy will be available online Jan. 21 while hard copies will be mailed Jan. 24 to 27. Civilian employee W-2s will be available online Monday while hard copies will be mailed Jan. 10 to 21.

Post teens get hi-tech club

Charmain Z. Brackett

Contributing writer

James Eaton expects to see more teens come through the doors of Fort Gordon's Youth Services.

"Before, we had an ancient (computer) lab. It had Windows 98. For the teen-agers, it wasn't high tech enough," said Eaton, functional technology specialist at Youth Services. "Since we've had the new lab, we've seen an increase."

Since August, 30 new computers and other related equipment such as cameras, printers and scanners have been added to the center. The first lab with 15 computers is for children between the ages of 6 and 10 and opened in August. The second lab with the other 15 computers opened in October.

Two new technology clubs targeted at teens started this week.

Club Beats focuses on making music and Club Hollywood is about making videos.

So far, Club Beats has 14 teens signed up.

The club had its first session on Saturday. It will meet weekly from noon-4 p.m. Saturday and 6-8 p.m. Tuesdays. Club Hollywood will also meet on Saturdays, but its other weekly meeting will be from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays.

A computer program allows students to create their songs by using a library full of different musical instruments and some voices. Other sounds can be imported to complete the song.

"I like the drums and Spanish guitar," said Mario Johnson, a 16 year-old Westside



Photo by Charmain Brackett

Mario Johnson, 16, makes his own music on the computer.

High School student who is a part of the club. "There are different styles – jazz beats, hip hop beats, different styles you make up your own."

Beginning in January, the last Friday of each month will be freestyle Friday, where the teens will be able to play their music for everyone.

While the clubs are in the early phases, Eaton has plans to add even more.

He hopes to one day have a club that does television news reports in a teen friendly studio. Also in January, he plans to start a parents' technology club to help parents learn

more about safeguarding their computers and their children as they use them.

Eaton said that the teens will go through training on how to be safe on the Internet, and the computers in both labs are outfitted with software to keep those under 18 safe by blocking certain websites and Internet functions.

Teens who are interested in either of the technology clubs can visit and check it out before making any commitments to join.

For more information, call 791-7575 or 791-6500.

Fire protection and prevention tips

Joe Hamm

Special to the Signal

In an emergency, seconds count, and while living on an Army post may lend a feeling of security to some, proper reporting procedures in an emergency are essential.

Quite frequently the Fort Gordon Fire Department encounters cases where some of the Fort Gordon public is unaware of the 911 system, or do not know that there is a 911 system, or believe some myths about the 911 system.

Here is an explanation of the post's safety system.

Fort Gordon does have a 911 system, located in Building 29717 in the Military Police desk sergeant's office, where the 911 controllers are located.

- During an emergency, many people believe that when a fire alarm activates, that it automatically notifies the fire department; or when they call 911, that they are speaking to the fire department.

This is a myth. Fire alarms

in buildings; the bells, whistles, and lights that activate, are there for all of the occupants to know that there is something wrong, such as a fire, inside of the building. These fire alarms are the signal to evacuate the building immediately.

Just because a fire alarm is activated, it does not mean the fire department is on the way. Someone, anyone, must call 911 to notify the emergency services.

Once an emergency is reported, the 911 controllers immediately dispatch the fire department using a public address in the fire stations, and over the fire department radio net.

It is designed this way because many times throughout a given day, there may not be anyone in the fire stations. Sometimes the firefighters are out of the station doing training, or may already be out on another emergency call.

For this reason never attempt to call the fire department on a commercial line to report an emergency.

When making a 911 report, here is the proper procedure:

- If you are having an emergency; first, make sure you are in a safe area, for example if your home is on fire – get out first, then call 911. More than likely the 911 controller will walk you through the report with a series of questions, but here is the key information they're going to need:
 1. Who are you?
 2. Where are you (address, best description of where you are such as an intersection or particular training area)?
 3. What is the emergency?
 4. A phone number the 911 can call back to if more information is needed.
 5. Stay on the line until told to hang up. This is important due to the fact not all emergencies are the same, and the 911 controllers may need other specific information to send assistance.
 6. Finally, after you hang up, stand by to guide emergency responders to the location.

- Using cellular phones for reporting. Be aware that if you use a cellular phone to report

an emergency on Fort Gordon, most likely you will connect to the 911 center where your phone service is located. For example if your cell service is out of Richmond County, then more than likely you'll get Richmond County 911.

In this case, some of the surrounding counties have the capability to transfer you to Fort Gordon 911 directly. So if you receive a county 911, tell them you need "Fort Gordon 911" and they'll transfer you immediately.

Some counties do no have that capability, and they'll only refer you to the MP desk sergeant commercial phone line.

This information applies to everywhere and everyone on Fort Gordon.

Whether you are in military housing, the PX or in Signal Towers, the procedures for fire alarms and reporting to 911 apply the same.

Remember, if there is fire, get out. Call 911 immediately.

(Hamm is a fire inspector with the Fort Gordon Fire Department.)

Hall of honor

From page 2

According to the Freedom Through Vigilance Association's website, the Hall of Honor was created in 1983 to honor those individuals who served the U.S. Air Force Security Service, Electronic Security Command, Air Force Intelligence Command, and AIA with great distinction and contributed immeasurably to successful mission accomplishment.

To date, 141 have been inducted into the Hall of Honor. They include Airmen who have served from World War II through Desert Storm. The Hall of Honor honors their contri-

butions to the nation.

Prichard's plaque will be displayed in the Hall of Honor at AIA, but he has yet to receive his personal copy of the plaque. He elected not to attend the ceremony at San Antonio, Texas.

"He didn't go to the ceremony," explained his boss, Don Scheffler. "He had been working here (as a newly hired federal employee at the Installation Operations Center) for about month and he felt an obligation to be at work."

"He is committed, "explained Scheffler. "We are glad he works for us."

Christmas spirit alive in Kabul

Staff Sgt. Jess Harvey
Air Force Print News

KABUL, Afghanistan – When most people think of Christmas, they think of spending quality time with family and friends, sitting around a beautifully decorated tree, opening brightly colored gifts and eating a feast of home-made goodies.

Others say Christmas is all about giving.

All of which I believe. But if you'd have asked me two weeks ago, I'd have said my Christmas was looking rather dreary, being deployed to Afghanistan.

After all, I wasn't going to be watching my children, ages 4 and 1, get up all excited after seeing what had magically appeared under the tree during the night. I wasn't holding my wife and laughing as the kids tore into their gifts with a fervor that goes unmatched at any other time of the year. I wouldn't be eating all the freshly cooked turkey, ham, dressing and pies – and smelling all the beautiful aromas that come with them.

Even though my Christmas lacked all of the things that normally inspire the Christmas spirit, if you ask me today, I'll tell you I had one of the best Christmas experiences of my life.

Thanks to the diligent efforts of an Army staff sergeant with whom I share living quarters and the kind words of half a dozen Afghan guards who watch over us like guardian angels while we sleep, I experienced a magic on this Christmas Eve like never before.

The festivities started around 6:30 p.m. But as could be expected during a deployment and with my lack of en-

thusiasm this year, I arrived about an hour late to find an underwhelming amount of people and a total lack of Christmas spirit.

There was loads of food brought from all over, holiday cookies from home and individually packaged treats from a box. But the magic just wasn't there. Whether it is the sports talk on television filling the void where holiday music should have been or the lack of children's laughter throughout the house, the mood just wasn't in the air.

About the time it really started sinking in that this Christmas Eve would probably be best spent sleeping in my bunk, the staff sergeant caught my attention and said, "Grab some cookies. We're going to hand them out."

I picked up a tray of cream-filled cookies and followed him past all the revelers, out the door, through the yard and into the alley behind our safe-house where Afghan guards work around the clock. We started handing cookies to the guards, who in turn, greeted us with salutations of 'Merry Christmas' and their heartfelt thanks for our being here in their country.

After our exploits as cookie Santas, we returned to our house accompanied by a few Afghan guards who'd shown up early and weren't on duty yet. A fire pit burned in the backyard. We all sat, warming our hearts and feet, to the crackle of the fire and laughter of good friends – some of whom I'd met for the first time that night.

The Afghans guards shared with us their tales of love, laughter and freedoms – all gained, according to them, since the arrival of the coalition. We

shared our own experiences, jokes and thanks with them in return.

We also shared food – lots of food. When one of the Afghans, warming himself next to the fire, would grab an apple or an orange, he would always offer half of it to someone else sitting nearby. I later learned this is their custom. Before long, all of my sorrows had departed and I started feeling as though I'd known these guys all my life.

As the guards started preparing for work, and I prepared to climb into my bunk, one guard, who teaches English in his off hours, leaned over to me and told me something I hope will stick with me for the rest of my life.

He said, "Tonight, my brother, you have shown me what Christmas means and now, I can go and teach my students about it."

That's when it hit me square in the heart. This night, the Christmas spirit had become more vivid and alive than ever before in my lifetime – all because of the laughs, smiles and hugs shared with my new-found brethren.

Christmas truly is about giving, whether it's a smile, a hug, a cookie or freedom. Christmas is also about spending time with loved ones, whether you've known them all your life, or whether you've just met for the first time.

If I were given the chance to do it all over again, I wouldn't change a thing. After all, my Afghan brothers helped me to understand the meaning of Christmas.

(Harvey is with Combined Forces Command – Afghanistan public affairs.)

Christmas at Joint Task Force Guantanamo

Lt. Col. Jeremy M. Martin
Army News Service

GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba – During the holidays, American families gather to share in the celebrations of the Christmas season and also reflect on the events of the past year. Military families are truly unique; they share a very special bond, a genuine understanding of the selfless service and sacrifice which often requires separation during the holidays.

During this Christmas season more than 300,000 military men and women are deployed in about 100 countries, defending freedom on behalf of the American people. In Iraq and Afghanistan, military personnel have helped to liberate millions of people, and given the citizens of those nations an opportunity for freedom and democracy.

There are more than 2,000 men and women deployed as members of the joint task force at Guantanamo Bay on behalf of the American people in support of the Global War on Terror. Many of the troops are on year-long deployments, and will be away from their loved ones during the holidays.

Many of the troops currently serving at the JTF are combat veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, serving and sacrificing now in Guantanamo. They are skillfully

performing the vital mission of providing safe, secure and humane custody to all detainees, and gathering intelligence, which has proved invaluable in support of the Global War on Terror. Many of these detainees are sworn enemies of the United States and our allies, and many issue threats daily to the guards, nurses and doctors (and their families back home), who so professionally administer care and custody to all detainees.

The servicemembers at Guantanamo are Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, civilians, National Guard, Reserves, and are jointly accomplishing a critical mission in support of the Global War on Terror. Guantanamo troops are well trained, well equipped and very well led in accomplishing this challenging detention mission.

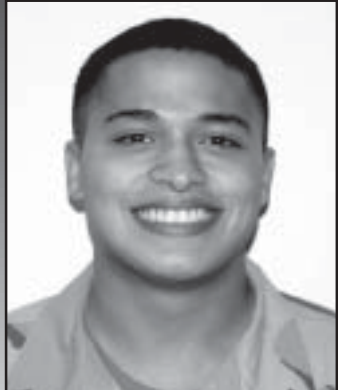
Most have had the opportunity to go home on leave during this deployment for a two-week period. When they return they recount with pride how they've been received as heroes in their communities, all across America. As usual, the American people get it right. It's the sons and daughters of America who are serving at Guantanamo. They enjoy, and have earned, the overwhelming support of a grateful nation.

(Martin serves as director, Joint Task Force Guantanamo public affairs.)

Feedback...

What did you miss most when you were away from home?

By Larry Edmond



I miss driving fast on the Autobahn. I was a military dependent and my first home was in Germany.

Pfc. Stephen Barber
297th MI Battalion



I really miss being close to my family and my mother's cooking.

Sgt. Annie Hallman
297th MI Battalion



The thing I missed most was Hawaii itself—the beaches, the people. It was a very laid back culture.

Sgt. Ronald Budhi
297th MI Battalion



It would have to be my three year old daughter in Cross, South Carolina.

Spc. Kristopher Gordon
297th MI Battalion



My niece is like my baby. I missed her most because I was taking care of her.

Spc. Sherrice Barrett
297th MI Battalion



I missed the time spent with my wife and kids.

Capt. Stanton Goings
297th MI Battalion

Downrange

'Combat Action Badge'

By Jeffery Hall



The Signal

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Post names top servicemember

MI Soldier named servicemember of year

Bonnie Heater
Signal staff

Spc. Joey Przyzycki’s long journey to selection as Servicemember of the Year for fiscal year 2005 began at the company level.

The linguist assigned to Company D, Task Force Lightning, 513th Military Intelligence Brigade, was selected as Servicemember of the Quarter for the fourth quarter of FY 2005. At this board she was judged on reporting procedures, uniform and appearance, military courtesy and bearing, NCO creed and history.

In addition, she was quizzed on current events and assorted military topics such as field hygiene and sanitation, weapons, flags and guidons, and land navigation and map reading. Przyzycki would go through four more boards at the Task Force level, Brigade level, Soldier of the Quarter at post level, and finally installation of the year competition.

“Out of a possible total score of 150 she earned 149 on her promotion board,” said Staff Sgt. Sean Blair, her supervisor at the time. “She was the best I have seen,” he added. “She is very competent.”

Przyzycki credits her success to spending her off duty time studying information off the website Armystudyguide.com and reading various military

publications such as *Soldiers Magazine* and *Army Times*.

“At each level of competition I found myself spending more time studying due to the difficulty of the subject matter presented at each board,” she said.

“I would advise any Soldier who has his or her sight on earning this award to continuously study military publications,” Przyzycki added. “But the most important thing to do is go to the boards with the confidence that you know what you need to know to succeed. Don’t psych yourself out.”

Przyzycki, who was pregnant throughout most of

the competition, was moved from the mid-shift to day shift to reduce any stress on the mother and baby. “We had to replace her with two Soldiers after she left,” said 1st Sgt. Joseph Patton of Company D, Task Force Lightning, 513th Military Intelligence Brigade. “She gave 100 percent of herself to the job.”

The linguist, who plans to study other dialects of Arabic as well as Kurdish in the future, graduated with honors and received the Faculty Book award while studying at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif., in 2004.

Her husband, Cpl. Ted Przyzycki, is assigned to Company A, Task Force Lightning, 513th Military Intelligence Brigade. They met at the Defense Language Institute. They like to spend

their off-duty time hiking, swimming, and studying Arabic.

Przyzycki, who earned a bachelor’s degree in history from Barnard College/ Columbia University in New York City prior to joining the Army in 2002, also enjoys studying American and world history in her spare time.

Przyzycki joined and served in the Army just as her father, Charles Miller, had done during the Vietnam War.

“If my daughter, once she is grown, decides to serve in the military and wants my advice, I will explain to her that military service will provide her with great opportunities,” she said. “It will open a lot of doors for you, but like most things in life it’s what you make of it. Have a plan for the time you serve.”



Photo by Bonnie Heater

Przyzycki is a linguist with the 513th Military Intelligence Brigade.

Week’s events feature photos, golf

Charmain Z. Brackett
Contributing writer

The Imperial Theatre’s Second Annual Southern Fried Flicks film festival is Tuesday through Saturday at the theatre on Broad Street.

The five-day festival showcases the works of Southern independent filmmakers. More than 80 films, some of them short features of less than 10 minutes, will be shown during the festival.

The All You Can See Pass is \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and gives unlimited access to the festival. Individual day passes are \$6 for adults and \$4 for students.

For information, call 722-8341.

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

With 1,100 acres of natural surroundings inhabited by animals such as the blue heron, otter and red-shouldered hawk, Phinizy Swamp Nature Park is an appropriate place for a nature photography workshop.

Ed Belinski will share tips to taking better digital nature photos at 9 a.m. Saturday at the Phinizy Swamp Nature Park.

Program participants should bring their camera, lenses and tripod, if they have one, to the class.

The class is \$5 for park members and \$8 for non-members.

Call 828-2109 for more information.

THE SKY THIS MONTH

Learn more about the constellations and planets visible in the night sky during Janu-

ary at the Dupont Planetarium on the campus of the University of South Carolina Aiken at 1 and 2 p.m. Saturday.

Those attending “The Sky This Month” show will receive a copy of the current evening sky map so they can do their own star watching at home.

For information, call (803) 641-3654.

GOLF HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

The Georgia Golf Hall of Fame will induct four Georgians into the hall of fame in a banquet at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at the Radisson Riverfront Hotel.

George S. Hamer Jr. of Columbus, Rosie Jones of Atlanta, Martha Wilkinson Kirouac of Norcross and Tim Simpson of Greensboro are the honorees. Reservations are \$90 per person; for details, call 724-4443.

CBRN

From page 1

“These exercises are designed to check that the students’ masks are secured on their face and that they have a good seal,” said Gilmer. “It helps them develop confidence in the mask.”

“I know I feel more confident with my mask every time I go in the (CS) chamber,” said Spc. Michael Cutright, one of the students in the class. He is assigned to the 206th Military Intelligence Battalion.

“The third phase of the gas

chamber training is referred to as, “Buddy one and Buddy two training,” explained Gilmer.

According to Gilmer, two students are selected. They are dressed in either the battle dress overgarment chemical protective clothing or the Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology chemical protective ensemble. One student helps the other student remove their chemical protective clothing while not contaminating himself or re-contaminating the

other student.

Gilmer estimates the CBRN training is conducting more classes and has stepped up training about 30 percent as a result of the Iraqi Freedom campaign.

Staff Sgt. Nicholas Stock, a drill sergeant from Company C, 73rd Ordnance Battalion and one of the students in the class, understands the value of the training.

“This training was everything I thought it would be and

more,” said Stock. “I feel (the knowledge learned here) will help me better train Soldiers in the future. We actually should be doing more of this training.”

(Heater participated in the unmasked initial phase of the training in the CS chamber.)

Troops deliver in rainy parade

Spc. Colby Hauser
Army News Service

LOS ANGELES – Rain-soaked spectators roared with applause at the grandstand Monday, as the Army’s last mounted cavalry unit presented arms during one of the nation’s largest parades.

The 1st Cavalry Division Horse Cavalry Detachment braved nature’s wrath and basked in the adoration of more than 200,000 fans as they trotted down Colorado Avenue during the 117th Tournament of Roses Parade.

“This is what this trip has been all about,” said Staff Sgt. Donnie Davis, a demonstration rider with the detachment. “You know, this is what we live for.”

An odyssey, seven days in the making for the detachment, this year’s parade performance was not without its challenges. It hadn’t rained on this parade since 1955.

This year, it poured. “It’s only rained once in my lifetime,” said Patsy Grant, a passenger on the Wells Fargo stage.

Grant said that after 25 years of coming to the parade, this was her first time participating in the event. Still, Grant said she had to find the right type of ride to make her dream come true.

“I’m too old to be queen, I can’t play a note and I’m afraid of horses so I had to find something to ride on,” she said.

The line-up consisted of 48 floats, 25 marching bands, 23 equestrian units and three official vehicles which made their way down the five-and-one-half-mile route, fighting sheets of rain every inch of the way.

“Our biggest concern wasn’t the horses, but the floats,” said Gerald Freeny, the chairman of the equestrian committee for the parade. “By 2:30 this morning we were drilling holes in the bottom of the floats to help them drain water, but the real concern was the winds.”

Local weather forecasts predicted four to eight inches of rain with winds in excess of 40 miles per hour for the parade. Still, with all the rain and wind, the show went on.

Soaked to the bone, the Soldiers played to the crowd, as “Buddy,” the detachment’s dog, howled to the delight



Photo by Spc. Colby Hauser

The 1st Cavalry Division wagon and Horse Cavalry Detachment ground crew greet soggy spectators on South Orange Grove Boulevard during their performance at the 117th Tournament of Roses Parade Monday in Pasadena, Calif.

to thousands of small children hoping to get a smile and a wave from one of the cavalymen.

Past the grandstands and through the streets, Longhorn and Trojan fans were engaged in a torrid war of words, but as the First Team troops rode past those words turned to cheers for the Soldiers and what they represent.

Riding tall in the saddle and shivering from the cold, the members of the detachment were all smiles from beginning to end. A lot has happened since their last appear-

ance at the Tournament of Roses Parade, but for the troopers it had been worth the wait.

“It’s truly an honor to be back here,” said Sgt. 1st Class Rip Bussell, the detachment platoon sergeant. “Coming to the parade and representing both the Cav and the Army is an honor, but talking to the people about who we are and what we really do is what makes things like this worthwhile.”

(Hauser serves with 1st Cavalry Division public affairs.)

Mother, son spend Christmas in Iraq

Master Sgt. Randy Mitchell
Army News Service

BAGHDAD – Some families go through a great deal to spend time with loved ones on Christmas, but rarely do they deploy to the desert to do so. One family did, however, and they were able to spend this special holiday together.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Salvador Russo, a secure communications craftsman with the 447th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, received a special Christmas gift this year when his mother traveled from Tallil, Iraq to spend the holiday weekend with him here.

Sgt. 1st Class Ana Russo, who deployed to Tallil with the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 485th Combat Support Battalion from Hanau, Germany, in November, had sought permission from her commander to spend Christmas with her son.

“I will be in Tallil for a year,” she said. “So this is the best gift I could receive, to spend time with my son during his first deployment. It is also a special time of the year when most families share time together.”

MANY DEPLOYMENTS
This isn’t Ana’s first deployment to a war-time environment; the 17-year Army veteran was deployed for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. This is also her second tour to Iraq,



Photo by Master Sgt. Randy Mitchell

Air Force Staff Sgt. Salvador Russo, with the 447th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, spent Christmas at Baghdad International Airport with his mother, Sgt. 1st Class Ana Russo, who is deployed to Tallil, Iraq.

she served at Al Taji in 2003.

Sal, from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, last saw his mother before he deployed here in September.

“(Mom) came to Ramstein to visit me and we went to restaurants, shopping, and just hung out together relaxing,” he said. “We cooked, laughed, watched movies, and called family back in the states. She even helped me with a Business Writing course I was taking.”

The two were hoping to share this Christmas with another family member, Ana’s other son Robert, a senior

airman assigned to the 55th Communications Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

“My other son, Robert, volunteered to come to Iraq,” Ana said, “but his chain of command did not allow it because his brother and I would be deployed here at the same time too.”

UNFORGETTABLE HOLIDAY
Ana is thankful for the opportunities she’s had to spend the holidays with her boys. Last Christmas, both sons visited her in Hanau for Christmas, although Sal had to overcome some car problems to make it there.

“I was having some pretty serious car problems and there was snow on the autobahn,” he said. “The night before I told her I didn’t think it was safe to drive out, but I could sense her sadness at the thought of me not coming, so I drove out anyways and surprised her Christmas morning.”

The time spent together last year was great, according to Sal, but nothing compared to this year.

“The memories we make will last a lifetime. I wish all deployed members could have this wonderful luxury, and I hope that our unique story brings some sort of warmth and happiness to those around us,” he said. “My girlfriend, Julia, and friends back in Germany have been a real source of strength to me during this deployment, but nothing tops having your mother with you at Christmas.”

Ana shared those same feelings, as they both expressed gratitude that their respective commander’s provided this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

“I want to thank (the commanders) for giving us the opportunity to spend this special time together,” she said. “I also want to say how very proud I am of my sons and the great job they do for our nation.”

(Mitchell serves with 447th Air Expeditionary Group public affairs.)

The elusive blessing

Chaplain (Maj.) Jay Johns
Leader College of Information Technology

“We buy things that we don’t need, with money that we don’t have, in order to impress people we don’t even like!”

Though few of us would describe ourselves precisely this way, there is no doubt that our culture tempts us to gain our sense of worth by “how well we’re keeping up with the Joneses.”

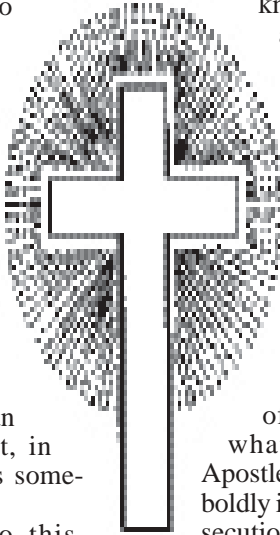
This should not surprise us. After all, isn’t it the job of the advertiser to leave us feeling discontented with what we currently possess? The struggle is not limited to the arena of money and possessions. Let’s be honest: when we ruthlessly examine our motives, don’t we very often posture ourselves, or steer the conversation, or drop a name, or reveal an accomplishment, in order to impress someone?

When we do this, we’re looking for a blessing that, if it comes at all, will last only for a moment. I’m reminded of a line from an old country song, “Lookin’ for love in all the wrong places.”

When we live our lives – consciously or unconsciously – with a view toward impressing others, and thereby securing their approval, we encounter an odd paradox. The paradox is this: the people I’m trying to impress can’t authentically bless me, because they’re in the same boat. They’re fishing for a blessing from me.

There is a truism in the world of psychology that says, “You can’t give what you don’t have.” It certainly applies here.

Another odd twist to this “dance of deception” is that most people are just way too easy to impress. How valuable is affirmation coming from an individual whose existence centers on speculation regarding “who will be voted off the island” or “who returns next week on American Idol.” We’d be better served by trying to develop the kind of character that impresses the people who *really* count: our spouses, children, and closest associates. After all, they’re the ones who



know us the best, and they can certainly tell when our inner life does not match up to a shiny exterior.

What you and I should be concerned most about is “what does God think of me?” This is what enabled the Apostle Paul to preach boldly in the face of persecution. His battle cry was Galatians 1:10: “For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.”

The message is clear – I can be set free to live abundantly for God if my sense of self-worth comes from him. No longer am I a slave of public opinion. Jesus said, “I have come that you might have life, and have it abundantly (John 10:10).

May God be our blessing, so that we might authentically bless others.

KFOR troops give blankets on Christmas

Blankets donated by U.S. school children

Sgt. Matthew Chlosta
Army News Service

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo – Soldiers from KFOR 6B convoyed to a hilltop church overlooking the small town of Letnice/Letnica, Kosovo, Dec. 25, to deliver hand-made fleece blankets to residents there.

“It’s important for me to celebrate Christmas here,” said 1st Lt. Melanie Meyer, liaison officer, Task Force Falcon.

“This is my first Christmas away from my family in the states,” Meyer said. “I wanted to come out here today so I can still feel the same joy of



Photo by Sgt. Matthew Chlosta

A Kosovar father and son receive a donated blanket Dec. 25.

giving during Christmas. Watching the faces of the kids getting really excited is great.”

Several children dressed in ski hats and winter coats smiled from ear to ear as they received their blankets from Meyer. The blankets were donated by a class of school children from the United States.

“Thank you for this, for the people,” said Don Krisht Gjergji, parish priest. “Thank you very much.”

Parishioners, mostly Albanian Catholics, worship at Our Lady of Cernagore Church, a historic, white-walled Catholic church built in Letnice/Letnica in 1866. Several Croatian Catholic families also worship there.

(Chlosta serves with the 4th PAD.)

297th celebrates return of Soldiers

Larry Edmond

Signal staff

It was a party with a purpose.

Pies, cakes, salads, chips, dips, wings and other sumptuous looking foods lined the tables, pushed together to hold a massive amount of drinks and food.

Company D, 297th Military Intelligence Battalion Soldiers who remained on Fort Gordon during the holidays were happily grinning.

Capt. Donald Houghton, Co. D commanding officer said, "This event is about Soldiers who are away from home, working holidays and weekends. This lets them know that I appreciate what they are doing. I want to give them something to help them feel less alone during the holidays.

"I want my troops to know, no matter how many hours we work, no matter what we do, the chain-of-command and myself appreciate what they do. Regardless of what people may say, it is an honor to wear this uniform. My troops uphold that honor very well," said Houghton.

It was a family affair. Houghton's wife and kids greeted Soldiers as they moved in and out of the conference room in building 21717 where the get-together was held.

Caring for Soldiers' families was one of the primary responsibilities undertaken by Delta Company while other units in the battalion were deployed.

"Our company for the past year was tasked to maintain the battalion's footprint; to make sure the battalion could function when it came to operations



Photo by Larry Edmond

Sgt. James D. Quinn receives the Purple Heart from Capt. Donald Houghton, Co. D, 297th Military Intelligence Battalion commanding officer, before the Co. D celebration. Quinn was recognized for his actions and wounds received during a bombing near Baghdad on June 8.

and things that happen back here. The biggest things were to take care of the families," Houghton said. "If a family was having problems like a money issue, we tried to help with loans. Or if they were having a problem with a car, we tried to help them get the car fixed."

He said, "If there was anything that we could do, we did it to make sure a Soldier forward deployed would not have to worry about his family."

That assistance yielded results.

Capt. Stanton Goings, Co. A commander, said the efforts of Co. D were important. "The party today was more than a Christmas party. It is mainly for recognizing contributions Delta

Company made to the battalion while we were gone. This is a thank you for the work they did. For me it just has tremendous significance since we benefited so much from the work of the rear company. They helped us not to have to think or be so worried about things that occurred while we were gone. We knew that our families were well cared for," said Goings.

Concerns about families occupied much of the conversation with both officers. As he moved about the room Houghton repeatedly probed Soldiers for news about their families.

Goings said his wife and kids were what he missed most

when he was deployed. "For the families and the Soldiers there is a lot of sacrifice. While we are deployed many key events can happen. Events take place not only with their personal lives but with the company and battalion as well. It is always good to recognize the sacrifices made by those on the battle front. Just as important we need to acknowledge the sacrifices of the families here. The spouses go through it just as we go through it" said Goings.

Elements of the battalion were deployed for 12 months until Nov. 5. While deployed, Goings said he was encouraged by the video teleconference, webcam communications and e-mails coordinated by Co. D. He was bolstered by support from his wife, Shari and two children Chrystian and Dani.

"Knowing that I was contributing to the efforts, seeing positive results, and knowing that I would be coming home to my wife and kids, kept me going," Goings said.

The work done by Delta Company made a difference. According to Goings, morale is great among Soldiers. "Coming back there was much conversation about the families at home. They were pumped," he said.

The time Soldiers returned from deployment coincided well with the holidays. Block periods of leave allowed Soldiers to spend time with their families away from normal work, school activities.

After the party, the Soldiers will be transitioning to reestablish the company with renewed vigor. Goings said, "We are looking forward to what will be happening."

Soldiers being armed with new tools

The Internet is perhaps the most transformative technology in history. The Army's commitment to distance learning has expanded the need and market for distance learning courses and degrees.

This program has afforded military personnel the ability to return to civilian life with strong educational qualifications and a valuable set of marketable workforce skills. The program has also amplified retention, as more Soldiers are achieving their personal educational goals without leaving the Army.

eArmyU reinforces the Army's commitment to investing in its people. This program has helped the recruiting aspect as well.

It is true that with the onset of this pro-

gram, the educated and "Information Age" Soldiers America needs are in the missions and front lines of today, and will continue to be tomorrow. This program has far surpassed the Army's expectations.

As a result, the Army anticipates making the eArmyU program one of the largest online educational portals in the world. Granted, the objective will always be to enable any enlisted Army personnel to earn a postsecondary degree or technical certification.

There are numerous benefits to the eArmyU program. Soldier-students will receive tuition assistance, textbooks, laptops, help-desk support, Internet access, academic counseling, extensive course selection, and a climate that encour-

ages life-long learning.

In looking ahead, the vision for the eArmyU program is that eventually every one of the Army's one million Soldiers will be able to take advantage of the program. The Army's commitment to distance learning is expected to expand the market for online content and courses, creating incentives for development. This should, in turn, create a much richer set of offerings for online learners in the civilian sector as well.

In sum, eArmyU continues to provide a "learn while you serve" option that will retain more Soldiers for the duration of the program.

(Article courtesy the Fort Gordon education center.)

'Civilians with attitude' can help shape Army

Murray Mack

Army News Service

"The Secretary of the Army will see you now..." Ever hear these words? Few of us have. But don't you wish at times you could march into the secretary's office and say what's on your mind?

Well, now is your opportunity. The Army civilian attitude survey is open to all Army civilian employees, supervisors, and managers. It can be filled out online at <http://cpol.army.mil/survey/dasurvey>.

More than 230,000 Army civilians are being asked to provide input on major issues of the day. So far, civilians are responding in droves and several thousand have already submitted their opinions. The survey is available online until Jan. 31.

The survey asks hard-hitting questions about leadership and management, performance culture, morale, retention, training and development, fairness, and other hot-button topics.

The survey collects civilian attitudes and opinions following the latest round of Base Realignment and Closure decisions, and just prior to the implementation of DoD's new civilian personnel system, the National Security Personnel System.

"I have to admit this year's survey is pretty darn controversial because of BRAC and NSPS," said Rickie Cannon, director of the Army's Civilian Personnel Evaluation Agency that coordinates the survey.

The results of this survey provide baseline attitudes and opinions that are used as the starting point to evaluate the effectiveness of these programs.

Past surveys indicate that senior Army leaders, both civilian and military, look forward to reviewing the results. Results are used locally for change management.

The secretary of the Army is provided the overall Army results, and the survey results are reported back to the commands, installations, and activi-

ties that produced them.

The Army civilian attitude survey has a long and proud history, trending back to the late 1970s. The Army originally developed the survey, and then found other federal agencies later copying the Army's survey items for their own use. "We've been in the business long before it became fashionable," Cannon said.

Throughout the years, the Army survey has measured job satisfaction, customer input about products and services, and much more. For example, about 65 percent of employees say their jobs are challenging and make good use of their skills and abilities. However, when asked whether they'd recommend their organization as a place to work to others, results are much lower.

The survey reaches a much broader audience, too. Years ago, it cost a lot of money to put out a survey, limiting survey participation to small portions of the Army. Today, Web technologies allow us to reach

all Army employees at a fraction of the cost.

So far, thousands have responded to the survey.

"It's a big Army and we need a lot more civilians to get involved. That's a challenge to the workforce," Cannon said.

The survey is voluntary, strictly confidential, and no names are used. Employees can take it during normal duty hours at work since the survey is considered official business.

(Mack is a lead personnel psychologist assigned to the office of the Army's Assistant G-1 for Civilian Personnel.)

Community Events

AFAP conference

The annual Fort Gordon Family Action Plan Conference is **Jan. 24 to 26** at the U.S. Army Reserve Center, Building 14401. For information, call Lynn Harshman at 791-3880.

Special Forces

There is a Special Forces briefing at noon, 3 and 5 p.m. **Jan. 18**, and 10 a.m., noon and 5 p.m. **Jan. 19** at the Soldier Service Center, Room 312.

For information, call (912) 767-1400 or e-mail **Derrick.Booker@usarec.army.mil**.

Deceased personnel

Maj. Scott Woodard, Eisenhower Army Medical Center, has been appointed as the summary-court martial officer to secure and dispose of the personal effects of Col. Edward F. Bzdula, EAMC, who died here Nov. 25.

Personnel having claims against or indebtedness to the estate should contact Woodard at 787-3850.

Mistletoe park events

Mistletoe State Park is having the following events:

Winter Bird Walk 9 a.m.-noon **Jan. 14**. Meet at the Nature Center.

Mountain Dulcimer Jam 10 a.m.-4 p.m. **Jan. 14** and **15** at the Beach House. North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association members from throughout the state will enjoy a weekend of music making.

All events are free with the \$3 per car park admission. For information, call 860-9517.

Auditions held

The Augusta Players Youth Theatre will hold auditions for "House at Pooh Corner" at 7:30 p.m. **today** and 10:30 a.m. **Saturday** at 409 Pleasant Home Rd. For information call 826-4707.

Community information

The monthly community information briefing is 11:30 a.m. **Jan. 18** at the Gordon Club.

The meeting provides information on community events and projects. It will be open to questions and comments.

The next meeting is Feb. 15 at the same time and place. For information, call 791-3639.

Bible studies

The Protestant Women of the Chapel offers new Winter/Spring Bible studies.

Beginning **Tuesday**, the group will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesdays and study "A Purpose Driven Life."

Starting **Jan. 25**, the group will meet Wednesdays at 9 a.m. and study "Enhancing Your Marriage" and "Overcoming Mistakes-A Light-hearted Look at Jonah."

The group meets at Bicentennial Chapel and a children's program is provided during both study times. For information, call Debbie Bennett at 210-7739.

Gospel concert

The Directorate of Morale, Welfare, and Recreation presents Yolanda Adams Today, a Gospel concert, at 7:30 p.m. **Jan. 18** in Alexander Hall. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; the show also features J.Moss with Nuttin' but Strings.

Tickets cost \$30 for the first 12 rows, \$25 for all others. For information, call Steve Walpert at 791-4389.

Change of command

The 297th Military Intelligence Battalion is having a change of command ceremony at 10 a.m. **today** at

Barton Parade Field. For information call 1st Lt. Christine Moore at 791-8181.

Tree recycling

Fort Gordon recycling accepts Christmas trees through **today** at 10th and Chamberlain, behind Building 997.

Service club meets

The Fort Gordon Service Club's next meeting is 7 p.m. **Jan. 18** at the Family Outreach Center. There will be a potluck dinner (beverages provided) followed by guest speakers from the nutrition clinic and psychology department at Eisenhower Army Medical Center.

Make reservations by Friday to Kisha Williams at 533-7850 or e-mail **Kisha.Williams@gmail.com**.

MLK program

The 15th Signal Brigade's Martin Luther King Jr. celebration is at 11:30 a.m. **Jan. 19** at Alexander Hall.

For information, call Staff Sgt. Duane Bland at 791-2272.

Superbowl party

The Courtyard is having a Superbowl party **Feb. 5**; doors open at 5 p.m. Cost is \$3 and includes food, door prizes, free games and more. For information, call 791-6000.

College registration

Paine College will hold registration for its Spring I and II terms on **Monday** and **Tuesday**; the first day of classes is Wednesday. For information, call 791-7979.

Babysitter training

The Augusta Red Cross offers a babysitter training class from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. **Jan. 21** at the Youth Center here.

Participants must be 11 to 15 years; cost is \$25 per person. Topics include basic care, safe play ideas, first aid and more. For information, call 724-8481.

Lifeguard training

The Augusta Red Cross offers lifeguard training classes at the indoor pool here. Classes cost \$150 and begin **Monday** or **Tuesday**. For information, call 724-8481.

Commander's course

The commander/first sergeants course will be held **Jan. 23 to 27** in Darling Hall Room 229-B. For information, call John Pitts at 791-9536.

Volunteers needed

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate's Tax Center is looking for volunteers to help prepare income tax returns for eligible ID card holders for the 2005 tax season.

Free training provided from **Jan. 17 to 20**. For information, call 791-7812.

Resumix training

Resumix training will be held in Darling Hall, Room 229 A, from 8-9:30 a.m. on the following dates: Jan. 19, Feb. 23, March 16, April 26 (Room 229 C), and May 24.

To register or for information, call 791-3044 or e-mail **andersod@gordon.army.mil**.

MLK program

The Fort Gordon Martin Luther King Command Program is 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. **Thursday** at the Gordon Club.

The theme is "Achievement Through Courage, Sacrifice and Moral Power," and the guest speaker is the Rev. Willie M. Bolden from Atlanta.

Cost for the luncheon is \$11. For information, call Sgt. 1st Class Cisco Johnson at 791-6442.

College testing

The Education Center offers DSST testing for servicemembers to earn college credit without having to complete classroom based courses.

The DSST offers exams in 37 subject areas including business, humanities, mathematics, sciences, social sciences and education; testing may be funded through DANTES for eligible servicemembers.

For more information, call 791-2000 or go to the Education Center, Building 21606 on Barnes Avenue.

Sheriff recruiter

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office from Punta Gorda, Fla., will be in the Army Career and Alumni Program office from noon-2 p.m. **Jan. 27** to recruit Soldiers interested in a career in law enforcement or corrections.

Starting pay is \$33,500 with full benefits including free coverage for dependent life insurance.

For information call Philip Schofield Sr. at (941) 205-5618.

Prayer breakfast

The Fort Gordon National Prayer Breakfast is 6:30 a.m. **Feb. 1** at the Gordon Club.

Guest speaker is retired Lt. Col. Brian Birdwell. Suggested donations are \$3 for E-5 and GS-5 and below, and \$5 for all others.

Tickets available through unit chaplains until Jan. 27. For information call 791-6469 or 791-3696.

Scouting

Boy Scout Troop 99 meets at 7 p.m. **Mondays** in Building 39115. For information, call Nathan or Beth Varner at 793-3001.

Youth chapel group

The Fort Gordon Chapel Youth for middle and high school students meets from 6-8 p.m. **Sundays** at the Installation Chaplain office. The group is nondenominational and meets for fellowship and teaching biblical principals. For details, call David Bowers at 294-8408.

Free SAT/ACT prep

Military ID card holders may now take an SAT or ACT prep course free. For information, go to **www.MilitaryStudent.org**.

Ordnance Corps meets

The Fort Gordon Ordnance Corps Association meets at 11:45 a.m. the first **Wednesday** of each month for lunch at the Gordon Club. For information, call Mitchell Johnson at 791-6551.

Story hour

Woodworth Library is having a Pre-school Story Hour from 11 a.m.-noon each **Wednesday**. Story hour features a series of fun and encouraging educational activities for children ages 2-5. Volunteers are welcome. For information, call 791-7323.

Jewish bible study

A Jewish Bible study and discussion brown bag luncheon is at 11:30 a.m. the first **Wednesday** of each month at Barnes Avenue Friendship Chapel.

For information call Capt. Jonathan Shoenholz at 791-7166.

Marines wanted

The Marine Corps League, a fraternity of active duty, former and retired Marines, is working to re-establish the Lt. Col. Jimmie Dyess Detachment 921 in the Augusta area.

To join or for information, call Paul Brewer at 854-1036 or e-mail **jpbrewer@pcsnitrogen.com**.

UMUC rep

A University of Maryland University College representative will be at the Education Center, Building 21606, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays.

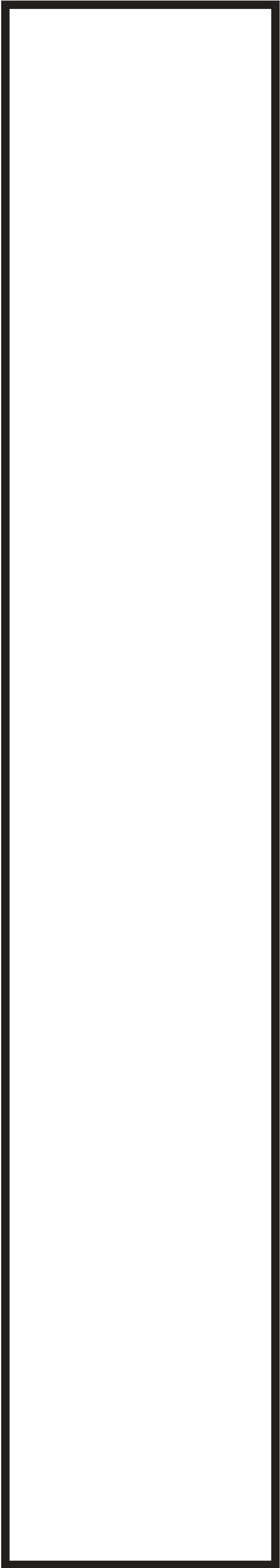
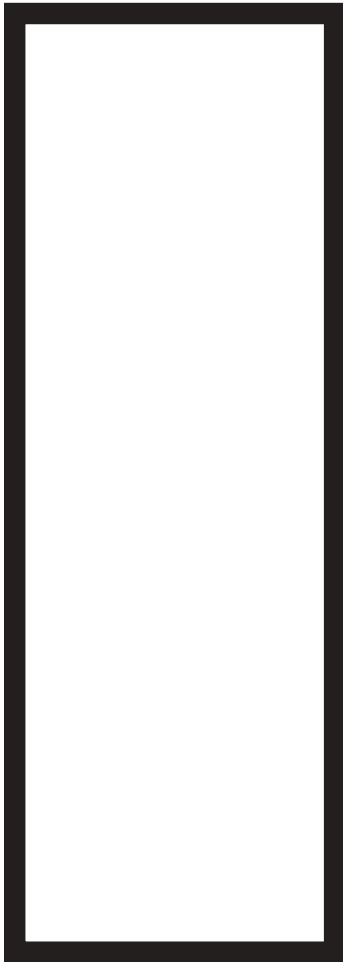
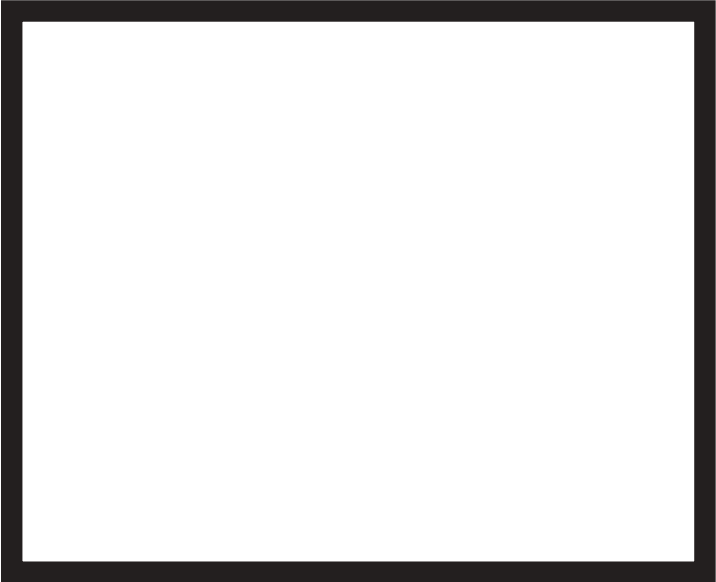
For more information call 791-2000.

At the Movies

The Signal Theater is open Thursday-Sunday. Shows begin at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$1. Children under 5 are free. For movie listings and times, call 791-3982.

Jan. 6-8
Friday - Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (PG-13)
Saturday - Harry Potter (PG-13)
Sunday - Derailed (R)

Note: Attendance at Fort Gordon's movie theater is strictly limited to authorized Post Exchange patrons.



Sports

Sports UPDATE

Archery tournament

Outdoor recreation is having a 3-D archery tournament **Jan. 29** at the Tactical Advantage Sportsman's Complex. Registration begins at 10 a.m., shooting at 11 a.m.

Cost is \$5 for Sportsman's Club members, \$10 for all others. For information, call 791-5078.

The next tournament is scheduled for March 19.

Superbowl party

The Courtyard is having a Superbowl party **Feb. 5**; doors open at 5 p.m. Cost is \$3 and includes food, door prizes, free games and more. For information, call 791-6000.

Bataan memorial march

On-line registration is now open for the 2006 Bataan Memorial Death March held **March 26** at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

The memorial march recognizes the sacrifices made by thousands of U.S. and Filipino servicemembers overwhelmed by the Japanese in the Philippine Islands during World War II.

Available this year is the arduous 26.2 mile march or a less challenging 15 mile honorary march. Cost to register is \$45; deadline is **March 19**.

For information call (505)678-1256, e-mail tbataan@wsmr.army.mil or go to www.bataanmarch.com.

Big buck contest

Outdoor Recreation's Big Buck Contest runs through January during the hunting season.

Hunters with a Fort Gordon hunting license can register both bucks for the year by entering once.

Cost is \$10 for FGSC members and \$20 for non-members.

First place wins a \$300 gift certificate and a free mount. For information call 791-5078.

Golf course

Gordon Lakes Golf Course is open daily, 6:30 a.m.-7 p.m., offering 27 holes of play and a driving range.

Memberships are available to the public. For information call 791-2433.

Ladies golf

The Gordon Lakes Ladies Golf Association tees off at 10 a.m. **Thursdays** at Gordon Lakes. For information, call 863-3747.

Bass tournament

The Savannah River division large mouth bass tournament is **Feb. 18**; fish weigh in is 3 p.m. Call 541-0321 for information.

Free hockey

Free tickets to all Augusta Lynx home games are available to active duty, retirees and family members through DMWR.

Tickets may be picked up in Room 336 in Darling Hall from 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

A complete schedule of games is available at www.AugustaLynx.com. For information call 791-6234.

Post holds roundball tourney

Larry Edmond

Signal staff

Like many Super Bowl games, the first Fort Gordon Holiday Open basketball championship game was anticlimactic.

On day one, eight teams squared off to compete in the holiday tournament held Dec. 27 and 28 in Gym 3.

Late the second day the championship game came down to the last teams left standing after two days of double elimination play.

Hustle and Flow proved they were too hot to handle and took the first place honor by beating the 67th Signal Battalion team 57-43.

The final score was as much about the never quit spirit of the 67th as it was about the red hot Hustle and Flow onslaught.

From the opening tip, the team of Hustle and Flow outran and outgunned their opponents.

Precise ball handling and lightning fast breaks kept the 67th team off balance and allowed Hustle and Flow to rack up a lead of 12-2 in the first few minutes of play. The pace never slowed as Hustle and Flow extended its lead to 19 points when the half time buzzer stopped the rout.

The 67th made it interesting with a beefed up defense to run off an 8-2 rally at the opening

of the second period.

Hustle and Flow adjusted, kicked into overdrive and never looked back.

Daimian Butler, Hustle and Flow guard, led all scorers with a tournament high 24 points. On the opposing team Casper Demerrick and Brent Jones each chipped in 12 points in a balanced team effort.

Competition leading up to the finals kept fans on the edge of their seats.

Nearly every one of the previous games in the tournament provided nail biting battles that were decided by a single basket or at most five points. Down by one point, a last ditch desperation launch from half court with two seconds on the clock swished the bucket to propel one team forward by a two-point margin.

Tournament coordinator Jim Whelan, Directorate of Morale Welfare and Recreation, said the tournament was a complete success.

After distributing medals to the first and second place finishers, he predicted that the tournament would continue.

The event was open to any groups — active duty military, retirees, Fort Gordon civilians and military family members 18 years and older to provide wholesome physical activity during the holiday season, Whelan said.



Photo by Larry Edmond

Casper Demerrick (2), launches a shot from the top of the key that slips into the bucket for two of his 12 points for the 67th in a losing cause.

Army athletes vie for spots on Olympic team

Jack L. Gillund

Army News Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — With little more than a month before the start of the XX Winter Games in Torino, Italy, 10 Soldiers in the Army World Class Athlete Program remain hopeful for spots on the U.S. Olympic team.

Spc. Mike Kohn, Spc. Steve Holcomb, along with Capt. Garret Hines and Capt. Lorenzo Smith are competing for spots on the U.S. Bobsled Team. The United States is scheduled to send two two-man and two four-man crews to the Olympics. The top nine athletes will compete in both disciplines.

"As soon as I found out that I wasn't going to be in the 2002 Olympics, I hopped in the driver's seat and haven't really looked back since," said Holcomb, who has been a bobsled athlete since 1998 when he graduated from Park City Winter Sports High School in Park City, Utah. "This sport is basically experience. The more you have the better you get. The learning curve is still steep but it's starting to plateau a little bit as I start to catch the other drivers."

FASTEST QUALIFIERS

During the U.S. National Bobsled Team Trials in October, he and teammates Brock Kreitzburg, Curt



Photo by Jack L. Gillund

Spc. Ryan McDonald, a member of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program, slides around a gate on the slalom course at Copper Mountain, Colo., during the 2005 Continental Cup Nov. 21 and 22. McDonald is vying for a spot on the U.S. Winter Olympic team and a chance to represent the United States in the XX Winter Olympics at Torino, Italy.

Tomasevicz and 2002 Olympic silver medalist Bill Schuffenhauer posted the fastest run time of day one at Canada Olympic Park in Calgary, Canada, — 55.5 seconds. Holcomb finished first

overall in four-man competitions during the two-day event and earned the right to pilot USA I during World Cup competitions leading up to the Olympics. Kohn finished in third place and is

piloting USA III.

Sgt. Jacob Beste, along with Spc. Sarah Kamiliwicz, Spc. Jill Krause, Spc. Denise Teela and Spc. Jeremy Teela are vying for spots on the United States Biathlon Team. Five men and five women will represent the United States as biathletes at the Winter Olympics.

"The U.S. is expected to field its strongest biathlon squad in Torino," said United States Biathlon Association officials in a press release. "Army WCAP athletes Jeremy Teela and Jill Krause will potentially bolster the team."

Spc. Ryan McDonald hopes to become the first snowboarder to represent WCAP in the Winter Games. The U.S. Snowboard team is scheduled to send 16 athletes to the Olympics. These athletes will compete in Halfpipe, Parallel Giant Slalom or Snowboardcross competitions. McDonald's specialty is Parallel Giant Slalom. He currently ranks fourth in the point totals that will determine who receives a spot on the U.S. team in that discipline.

In addition to the athletes, two WCAP Soldiers will represent the Army at the Olympics as coaches: Sgt. Tuffield Latour is head coach for the U.S. Olympic Men's Bobsled Team, and Spc. William Tavares is head coach for the U.S. Olympic Women's Bobsled Team.

Bodybuilder, powerlifter weighs into competition

Senior Airman Kerry Solan-Johnson

Air Force Print News

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — When 5-year-old Troy Saunders saw Tom Platz — the man known most for his sculpted legs in the bodybuilding world — his mind was made up.

"It made me want to have muscles like that," said Master Sgt. Troy Saunders, a transportation specialist with the 435th Materiel Maintenance Squadron. "From then on, I ran, jumped and did pushups — anything to get in shape."

More than 30 years after seeing Platz, Saunders has lifted and sculpted his way to countless titles in bodybuilding and the 220-pound class in power lifting. He earned his most recent titles in Europe.

"During the last eight weeks I have participated in seven bodybuilding championships in Germany and Switzerland," Saunders said. "The highlight was winning my class and the overall title at the 2005 German bodybuilding championships."

Saunders' success lays in his dedication to his sport. He does heavy lifting — squats,

bench presses and dead lifts — 90 minutes a day, three times a week to maintain body mass. He does cardio workouts six hours a week. His exercises and times vary according to the competition for which he is gearing up.

"There are distinctly different goals when I'm competing for bodybuilding as opposed to powerlifting," Saunders said.

Bodybuilding judges look at the appearance of overall muscle mass, for a minimal amount of body fat — the less fat, the more muscularity, the more "ripped" look," Saunders said.

Powerlifting's merit is solely in the amount of weight lifted.

Saunders' muscles mass earned him the German title, despite giving up 40 pounds to the majority of his competitors.

"I was the most conditioned athlete," the sergeant from Kingsley, Iowa, said. "That was really my strong point going into the competition."

The German win qualified Saunders to compete for Mr. Universe, but that was a competition he passed up to compete in World Championships.

"The World Championships and Mr. Universe fell on the same weekend. I opted for the World Championships because I knew it would be a challenge," Saunders said.

In 2005, Saunders earned more than 10 titles, including a win in the 220-pound class at the U.S. Forces European Championships. He also earned the 220-pound class and the outstanding lifter award at the 2005 U.S.A. Military National Powerlifting Championships.

The titles don't bring Saunders to the resolve that he's reached his peak, but serve to push him forward in his bodybuilding and powerlifting endeavors.

"I've been asking myself: Do I need to keep doing this. This makes me want to strive a little longer — being almost 40 doesn't seem to be a roadblock at all," he said.



Photo by Christine June

Master Sgt. Troy Saunders does a front-bicep pose during the 60-second pose-off at a bodybuilding competition. Saunders took home the overall title at the 2005 German bodybuilding championships.

Extraordinary care packed in ordinary tents

Sgt. Dallas Walker
Air Force Print News

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq – In a sea of tents and trailers on Balad Air Base in northern Iraq, shrapnel is being surgically removed from a limb, medics are racing to stop someone from bleeding to death and another life is being saved from wounds inflicted on the battlefield.

It is that sea of tents which houses the Air Force theater hospital, where servicemembers and civilians get the most advanced medical care possible in a combat zone.

Run by the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group, the hospital offers trauma and specialized medical care for people throughout Iraq and serves as the theater aeromedical evacuation support hub.

“If you arrive here alive, you have about a 96 percent chance of leaving here alive,” said Col. (Dr.) Elisha Powell, 332nd EMDG commander.

The availability of specialized care at the hospital is like nothing seen in a combat zone in the past, making it easier to save lives, Powell said.

“What makes this hospital so successful in Iraq is that we push technology so far forward,” he said. “We’ve never pushed specialties this far onto the battlefield before.”

The hospital boasts a staff of surgeons who specialize in procedures on the brain, heart, bones and soft tissue. It has six operating rooms and nearly everything a standard

hospital has, from a pharmacy to an X-ray lab – all in the heart of a combat zone.

FIRST LINE CARE
“Medics and what they do, basic and advanced first aid, is where life saving begins,” Powell said.

The survival of a combat casualty depends largely on the first echelon of medical care. The most important aspect is stopping the bleeding.

“The number one cause of preventable death in Iraq is exsanguination – bleeding out,” Powell said. “If Soldiers don’t stop the bleeding and use the tourniquets put in their first aid kit, then (the casualty) probably won’t make it to us.”

DUST OFF
The sound of medevac pilots calling in their status echoes as Army and Air Force medics in the patient administration office of the hospital prepare for their landing – the crucial first minutes of a casualty’s arrival at the hospital. Most of the casualties treated at the hospital are brought in on a medevac flight.

“I give all the credit in the world to the flight medics,” said Staff Sgt. Jalkennen Joseph, an emergency room medic. “I’ve never seen anyone perform their job above and beyond like they do. They do things you only see in movies or read about in books. They do it on a daily basis.”

The medevac crews try to get casualties to the hospital within the “golden hour” – the first 60 minutes after injury.

“Getting patients here quickly, keeping them warm and stopping the bleeding are key to life saving in trauma,” Powell said.

Within minutes of landing on the hospital helipad, the medevac crew and hospital staff take the casualty to the emergency room.

THE ER
“This is (the casualty’s) first stop in the hospital,” Joseph said. “Our job is to stabilize the patient. We check the ABCs. We check their airway, we check to see if they are bleeding and we check their circulation.”

Doctors assess the casualty in the emergency room to determine the course of action, Joseph said.

NEXT STOP
The hospital staff prides themselves on rapid care – stabilizing patients and getting them out of the hospital.

“If a patient requires surgery to survive, it will be done here,” Joseph said. “Most of the patients we care for don’t even know they were here. Most of them are severely injured and unconscious. We stabilize them and send them to (Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in) Germany as quickly as possible.”

THE PATIENT
The hospital provides care and treatment to anyone wounded in combat. More U.S. Army Soldiers are treated than anyone else and coalition forces make up 60 percent of the patient load.

The remaining 40 percent of patients seen at the hospital are Iraqi citizens, terrorists and detainees injured in combat.

“We give (Iraqis) the same medical care as anyone else,” Powell said. “We’re not military police, we’re not (military intelligence), we are medics. Detainees get the same healthcare as the Soldiers, as the Iraqi Police, as the Iraqi Army. Our job is to provide the highest standard of medical care.”

THE TEAM
The hospital has a mostly Air Force staff, with support teams from the U.S. Army and Navy as well as the Australian army, navy and air force. There are more than 250 medics assigned to the theater hospital.

“We have all really clicked working together,” Joseph said. “We run this



Photos by Sgt. Dallas Walker

Col. (Dr.) Elisha Powell and (Dr.) Jack Ingari operate on a Soldier from the 101st Airborne Division after an improvised explosive device attack injured him. Both are orthopedic surgeons with the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group at the Air Force theater hospital which treats American and Iraqi forces, and Iraqi citizens.

place smoothly, doing the same mission. We live by the hospital motto ‘One team. One mission.’”

A majority of the Airmen assigned to the theater hospital, including Powell and Joseph, come from Wilford Hall Medical Center in San Antonio – one of only two military hospitals that treat civilian trauma patients.

“People here are selfless and go out and do their job,” Joseph said.

“Most of the people we treat got injured serving their country.”

In the sea of tents, another life is being saved by a hard-working medic or an experienced surgeon with the best combat medical care available in Iraq.

“It’s an honor to be able to care for the wounded out here,” Joseph said. “It’s a lifetime experience. I can’t stress enough; it’s what we are proud and happy to do.”



Airmen and Soldiers unload a patient from a helicopter at the Air Force theater hospital.

Spectrum



Photos by Kristy Davies

A C-130 Hercules flies over Fort Gordon while conducting an equipment drop in the training areas. Student pilots and navigators from the 700th Airlift Squadron at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Marietta, Ga., train at the installation on a daily basis.

Air Force flies high in Gordon airspace

Kristy Davies
Signal staff

When most people think of Fort Gordon they may think of Signal training or some type of Army training, but not Air Force training.

But look up in the sky around noon on a clear day and you may see two or more C-130 Hercules flying above post.

The planes arrive here from the 700th Airlift Squadron of the 94th Airlift Wing at Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta, Ga., to conduct drops in Training Area 23.

A large, bright orange flag waves in the wind at the center point of the drop zone as the pilots gauge where to make their drops. As they fly closer, large pallets with parachutes attached fall quickly to the ground and land with a thud.

"The first drop that came out of the first airplane, we were dropping heavy equipment loads," explained Maj. Todd Copley, a navigator with the 700th Airlift Squadron and officer in charge. "Those pallets weigh about 3,300 pounds. That's nothing, that's light."

The drops are used to simulate equipment, gear or food.

"(The containers on the pallets) are called container delivery systems," Copley continued. "They just roll out the back (of the plane) on rollers and we can drop those from any altitude. (They have) 55 gallon drums simulating MREs or ammunition...whatever needs to be resupplied."

The larger loads could be simulating the drop of a Bradley fighting vehicle or Humvee.

The 700th Airlift Squadron conducts these drops daily.

"We're teaching brand new pilots and navigators how to fly C-130s (Hercules)," said Copley. "They've already gone through pilot training which takes about a year, (navigation) training for about a year and they learn all the basics, then they get their assignment, like a C-130. We spend four months

out at Dobbins, teaching them how to fly the Herc and how to employ it."

The training is not limited to just the pilots, but helps to train other personnel aboard the aircraft.

"Training is for all crew positions, especially for the loadmasters who are in the back of the airplane," said Copley. "There's actually five people minimum. Two pilots, a flight engineer, a navigator and, in this case, two loadmasters in case there is a malfunction in the back. It takes two guys to perform the emergency procedures."

Using an Army installation helps the Army and Air Force in more than one way.

"(This was) a demonstration of doing an air drop and that is what the Army has charged us to do - to be able to re-supply them," explained Copley. "The Army drives our training. Whatever they need, we need to come up with the tactics and ways of getting it to them. That's our main goal is to drop paratroopers and resupply the Army troops."

Although they train almost every day during the year, you may not always see them during the day.

"We'll do night drops," added Copley. "(The pilots are) doing night vision goggle work and we'll have the DZ lit up with infrared lights. You can't see them with the naked eye but you can see them with the night vision goggles."

Copley was satisfied with the drop on that windy day.

"Most of these drops were (within) about 100 yards and that's pretty good with the wind," Copley grinned. "Both of these were dropped about 600 feet above the ground."

With plenty of space and a defined drop zone, the installation is a great place for training.

"It's a good place to come out and train here at Fort Gordon," Copley said with a smile. "They have a real nice drop zone. It's a long way for us to drive, but the air space is pretty clear for the airplanes and you got a good restricted area."



Air Force Maj. Todd Copley, 700th Airlift Squadron, Dobbins ARB, measures the distance from the drop zone flag to a sandbag dropped by a C-130.



(Left) Air Force Master Sgt. David Williams field packs a parachute after a successful drop of a Container Delivery System. The CDS simulates items such as Meals Ready to Eat and ammunition.

(Above Right) Simulated equipment is dropped from a C-130 at Training Area 23 as part of a daily training routine. The equipment is simulated in case a mistake is made no real equipment is damaged. (Right) Student pilots from Dobbins ARB drop 15 pound sandbags with 68 inch parachutes, many of which landed within 100 yards of their target. The first drop included 55 gallon drums and simulated heavy equipment loads weighing approximately 3,300 pounds.